

# Grape Production Decreases in 2003

**G**rape production in Virginia decreased in 2003 with the production of the Vinifera varieties accounting for the majority of the overall production. Producers harvested a crop valued at \$4.7 million receiving an average price of \$1,300 per ton. Virginia ranked 10<sup>th</sup> nationally in commercial grape production and 10<sup>th</sup> for bearing acreage.

Virginia's grape producers harvested 3,600 tons of commercial grapes in 2003, down nearly 22% from the 4,600 tons produced in 2002. Tons produced have not seen a value lower than 3,600 tons since 1998 when tons produced were at 3,200.

Virginia acreage (bearing and non-bearing) has increased from 1,418 acres in 1995 to 2,380 acres in 2003, a 68% increase over that time span.

The Chardonnay variety made up 34 percent of Virginia's total Vinifera production harvested in 2003. Also, Virginia's most popular variety accounted for 32 percent of all the Vinifera variety bearing acreage and 21 percent of the total vineyard acreage statewide.

Chardonnay, White Riesling, and Cabernet Sauvignon suffered significant production losses in 2003. Chardonnay producers harvested 223 tons less in 2003 and White Riesling producers harvested 164 tons less in 2003 compared with 2002. Also, Cabernet Sauvignon producers harvested 160 tons less in 2003 compared to 2002.

## 2003 Growing Season

The 2003 grape production season began with little to no spring frost and ideal temperatures. However, starting in May, the promising weather turned into an extremely wet spring and summer with below average temperatures. Wet conditions brought problems like powdery mildew, mold, and rot. Many growers found it difficult to maintain an effective spray regiment to combat the mold and mildew due to the continual rainy conditions. The below average temperatures during bloom resulted in poor fruit sets for many growers. Hurricane Isabel accounted for some damage to leaves and bunches along with bringing more rain, but most growers reported the majority of their crop damage was done before the hurricane. After Isabel, vineyards were hit with an early frost during the first week of October which forced many growers to harvest their grapes 2-3 weeks later than the average harvest time to allow for fruit maturation. The vineyards that persevered kept up with fungicide spraying, sacrificed portions of their crop for the success of the remaining crop, and spent many hours keeping the canopy under control allowing for proper air circulation. The 2003 season was a very challenging one, but Virginia's grape growers still managed to produce a high quality crop.



**GRAPE PRODUCTION AND ACREAGE BY VARIETY, 2002-2003 <sup>1/</sup>**

	Tons Produced		Bearing Acres		Non-Bearing Acres	
	2002	2003	2002	2003	2002	2003
<b>VINIFERA</b>						
Chardonnay	1,242	1,019	487	480	55	30
Cabernet Sauvignon	489	329	209	226	53	37
Cabernet Franc	462	466	187	200	80	82
Gewurstraminer	27	18	16	16	6	7
Merlot	390	317	123	163	66	65
Pinot Noir	80	48	29	30	5	9
Sauvignon Blanc	54	48	20	20	6	7
White Riesling	276	112	80	80	5	6
Vioignier	299	206	87	92	35	57
Other White Vinifera	121	137	67	72	18	22
Other Red Vinifera	478	263	115	130	27	41
<b>HYBRID</b>						
Seyval	126	71	49	46	6	4
Vidal Blanc	336	259	135	137	13	16
Chambourcin	56	89	41	45	11	27
Other White Hybrid	33	46	34	44	10	22
Other Red Hybrid	15	10	7	8	6	1
<b>AMERICAN</b>						
Norton	55	82	35	37	9	43
Seedless Table (all)	6	26	14	14	1	1
Other Red/Black						
American	12	25	41	42	3	3
Other White American	43	29	24	18	5	*
<b>STATE TOTAL</b>	<b>4,600</b>	<b>3,600</b>	<b>1,800</b>	<b>1,900</b>	<b>420</b>	<b>480</b>

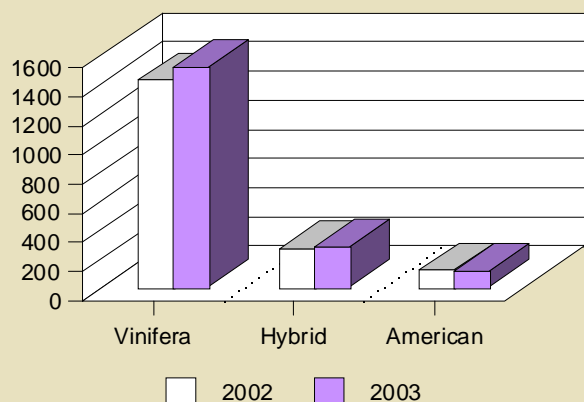
<sup>1/</sup> 2002 data revised. \*Some variety totals are not published to avoid disclosure of individual operations or may have no data.

## GRAPE PRODUCTION AND BEARING ACREAGE, ALL TYPES <sup>1/</sup>

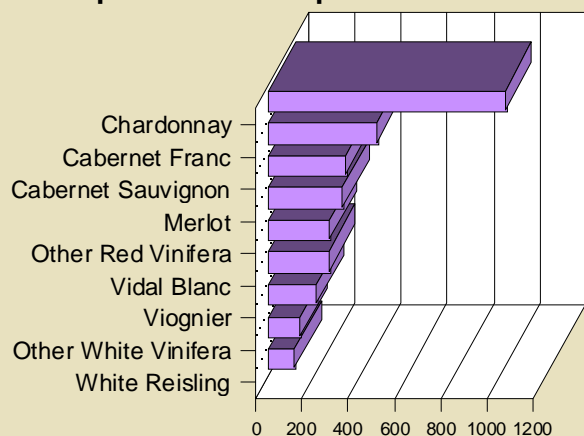
Rank	State	Tons Produced		Bearing Acres	
		2002	2003	2002	2003
1	CA	6,500,000	5,690,000	825,000	823,000
2	WA	332,000	344,000	49,800	52,000
3	NY	156,000	202,000	31,000	31,000
4	MI	42,700	94,500	12,300	12,600
5	PA	53,200	85,000	12,800	11,000
6	OR	22,800	24,000	9,500	10,100
7	OH	5,800	8,100	2,100	2,200
8	AZ	8,400	8,000	2,400	2,100
9	TX	4,700	6,000	2,900	2,900
<b>10</b>	<b>VA</b>	<b>4,600</b>	<b>3,600</b>	<b>1,800</b>	<b>1,900</b>
11	GA	2,800	3,100	1,100	1,100
12	AR	5,600	3,000	1,400	1,400
13	MO	2,900	2,800	800	850
14	NC	2,300	2,800	850	950

<sup>1/</sup> Estimates for 2003 are preliminary

## Bearing Acres By Variety



## Top Ten Grape Varieties



## GRAPE PRODUCTION AND ACREAGE BY DISTRICT AND COUNTY, 2002-2003 <sup>1/ 2/</sup>

County	Tons Produced		Bearing Acres		Non Bearing Acres	
	2002	2003	2002	2003	2002	2003
<b>NORTHERN</b>						
Culpeper	96	59	41	36	14	14
Fauquier	442	146	135	138	20	26
Loudoun	674	426	242	253	61	55
Madison	294	122	93	49	9	8
Rappahannock	111	86	43	50	4	9
Rockingham	35	49	20	20	1	5
Shenandoah	113	124	60	67	19	14
Warren	39	30	22	21	3	4
Other counties	76	28	44	46	38	21
<b>District total</b>	<b>1,880</b>	<b>1,070</b>	<b>700</b>	<b>680</b>	<b>169</b>	<b>156</b>
<b>WESTERN</b>						
Botetourt	*	95	*	42	*	5
Roanoke	70	20	30	29	2	*
Other counties	150	95	91	54	15	10
<b>District total</b>	<b>220</b>	<b>210</b>	<b>121</b>	<b>125</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>15</b>
<b>CENTRAL</b>						
Albemarle	780	680	322	330	50	105
Amherst	*	44	*	29	*	11
Bedford	12	25	7	15	4	17
Greene	40	41	31	30	4	5
Louisa	*	16	*	20	*	2
Nelson	160	209	57	74	48	50
Orange	620	559	171	172	14	13
Spotsylvania	33	*	22	*	4	*
Other Counties	95	98	80	90	26	27
<b>District Total</b>	<b>1,740</b>	<b>1,670</b>	<b>690</b>	<b>760</b>	<b>150</b>	<b>230</b>
<b>EASTERN</b>						
Essex	134	40	24	28	7	4
King George	71	50	30	31	*	*
Westmoreland	198	99	61	62	1	7
Other Counties	127	187	62	82	30	23
<b>District Total</b>	<b>530</b>	<b>380</b>	<b>177</b>	<b>203</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>34</b>
<b>SOUTHERN</b>						
Patrick	*	127	*	46	*	9
Other Counties	140	55	55	24	16	11
<b>District Total</b>	<b>140</b>	<b>180</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>70</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>20</b>
<b>Other District Total</b>						
	90	90	57	62	30	25
<b>State total</b>	<b>4,600</b>	<b>3,600</b>	<b>1,800</b>	<b>1,900</b>	<b>420</b>	<b>480</b>

<sup>1/</sup> Some county totals are not published to avoid disclosure of individual operations. Production and acreage are included in district and state totals. <sup>2/</sup> 2002 data revised.

## Production by District

